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AN
HISTORICAL AND PRACTICAL
TREATISE
ON THE
VENEREAL DISEASE;
DEDICATED TO HIS GRACE
THE DUKE OF QUEENSBURY.

ILLUSTRATED WITH
SOME REMARKABLE CASES;
BEING THE RESULT OF FIFTEEN YEARS EXTENSIVE
PRACTICE IN THIS METROPOLIS:
TOGETHER WITH
OBSERVATIONS ON A LATE PUBLICATION OF
DR. BUCHAN'S,
ON THIS COMPLAINT:

In which his Principles are candidly examined, and clearly refuted.

IN THIS WORK
IS LAID DOWN A MODE OF PREVENTION,
WHICH, IF UNIVERSALLY ADOPTED, WILL, IN A FEW YEARS,
ANNIHILATE THIS INVETERATE DISEASE.

BY C. B. GODFREY, M. D.

NO. 1, FOUNDER'S-COURT, LOTHBURY, BEHIND THE BANK.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

And Sold by H. D. SYMONDS, Paternoster-Row; and all other
Bookfellers.



TO HIS GRACE

THE MOST NOBLE

THE DUKE OF QUEENSBURY.

MY LORD DUKE,

The benefit of mankind being the principal object of the following Treatise, it supercedes the necessity of apologizing for its being dedicated to your Grace;—humanity and benevolence being the paramount virtues

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which

which have invariably marked your whole life:—indeed these virtues as well as the title appear to be hereditary in the House of *Douglas*, and give a permanent lustre to that title, instead of receiving any from its accidental reflection.

The Traveller who has lost his way in a dark inclement night, beholds with pleasure and hope a distant light, by which he shapes his course to the roof of hospitality. In the same manner does the lamp of humanity (perpetually lighted in your Grace's breast) direct distress and affliction, from the dark recesses of misery, to the light of your Lordship's sympathizing relief.

On this expanded and exalted principle,
I make a congenial claim to your Grace's
patronage

patronage for the following Treatise, which illustrious support, I have no doubt will give it a general circulation, and which in *a due ratio* to its extension, will, consequently, promote the general good of mankind.

Health being the sweetest flower in the variegated garden of life, it should be the principal object of our rearing and preservation, as without it the blessing of life is perverted into a malediction.

It matters not whether we are deprived of this superlative blessing by inheriting or contracting disease, or by any negligence, accident, or incautious consent of our own, —bad health when it breaks in on the constitution we should treat like a house-breaker, who, by whatever means he gets in, it is our

duty and our interest to get out as soon as we can,—if we appreciate our domestic security or happiness.

In this contrasted contemplation of human happiness and misery, I have for many years made the Venereal Disease the particular object of my most sedulous investigation, well knowing that in the catalogue of human complaints, there is none more inimical to health and happiness;—and I will not hesitate to assert that the items which compose Pandora's *imaginary* inventory of human ills may be easily *realized* by tracing the various effects of the Venereal poison on the human constitution.

To remove a general evil, my Lord, is to establish a general good, in which benign
under-

undertaking I anticipate with a secret pleasure your Grace's co-operation ; for, tho' elaborate performances may ultimately find their level of public approbation, yet the great work of humanity is partly suspended, or at least proceeds but slowly, until that event crowns the Author's labours, but it is rapidly promoted by the fostering hand of such exalted patronage as your Lordship's, which consideration alone gave birth to the present dedication.

My LORD, —It is an inverted kind of vanity in some authors to mention their own labours with the epithets, *poor and weak efforts, to elucidate and make useful their subjects,* — in expectation, no doubt, that this affected censure of their own might procure them the praise of their patrons. —But I disclaim such

insidious methods of *obliquely begging* praise, I am bold enough to assert that the Venereal Disease was never better investigated, more attentively pursued in all its latent recesses, nor was there ever a more radical, rational certain and cheap mode of cure pointed out by human industry, than will be found in the following Treatise.—Under this conviction, and the probability of accomplishing the general benefit I intended to mankind in my unremitting and painful investigation of this disorder, it is a consolation to my mind to reflect that I have performed a duty which I owed to society, and I take an open, undisguised, manly pride, which I now publicly avow, in saying, that the extensive knowledge I have acquired, is commensurate to the pains and expence I have been at in acquiring it.

Upon

Upon this basis I raise the foundation of a hope, that it will not only meet your Lordship's approbation, but also that it will not appear unworthy of your countenance and support.

In seeking this protection, my Lord, I candidly confess my vanity, as whatever estimation self-love may induce me to hold the merit of my own labours in, I have no claim to hope your Grace's patronage, but from your own generosity; for in saying that your general character for humanity and benevolence is universally spoken of, I am only the echo of common fame; therefore, I cannot be supposed to offend by adulation in saying that what every one says, must be true; and that it was these shining, inherent virtues in your

Grace,

Grace, operated like a magnet of intellectual attraction on me, in dedicating to your Grace, a Treatise so evidently calculated for the alleviation of human misery, and the promoting of human happiness.

Vanity, my Lord, becomes a virtue, when its aspiring effects are directed to procure the sanction of the great and good, in the dissemination of beneficial knowledge in matters of the greatest importance to Society,—*viz.*, that of preserving and restoring health.

In this point of view, your Grace will hold the first place in the merit of the following sheets, by your patronage of them, while the second will be filled with humble gratitude,
and

and the most profound respect for your Grace's
exalted rank and virtues, By,

MY LORD DUKE,

YOUR GRACE'S MOST OBEDIENT,

AND MOST DEVOTED HUMBLE SERVANT,

C. B. GODFREY.

No. 1, *Founder's Court,*
Leithbury.

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INTRODUCTION.

I FIND myself, in some measure, called upon by the respect I entertain for the practice as well as the regular practitioners of physic, to assign my reasons for departing from the regular routine of practice, and adopting my present mode of addressing the public through the medium of an abstract publication. They are briefly these:—during a long and sedulous attendance on the different Hospitals, I observed a great variety of inveterate Venereal cases, when on enquiring into the history of their cure, I found that nineteen out of twenty of these

these deplorable and almost incurable stages of the disorder, had their origin in the ignorance, presumption and inhumanity of empiricism--It, therefore, became (in my opinion) necessary that some professional Gentleman should step forward publicly and boldly to offer his assistance in order to rescue the unfortunate diseased, from falling preys to the rapacity of itinerant pretenders, and that tho' there are several Gentlemen in the profession whose abilities are decidedly superior to mine in general practice, yet, these Gentlemen, from the extensiveness and respectability of their practice, in other branches, cannot pay that particular attention to this important disease, which it merits from its rapid and progressive malignity, and which nothing but a particular devotion of study, attention, and application to its complicated inveteracy, is able to accomplish; and as I am ambitious, by a strict adherence to the elevated and honourable principle of humanity to the afflicted, to merit their esteem, so am I anxious by every honourable means in my power, to obtain the encouragement of the virtuous and enlightened

enlightened practitioners of physic in this Metropolis, in carrying my present plan into execution.

In this age of refinement, where speculation is systemised and reduced to a science, and every bold adventurer is a self-created adept—It will, I am afraid, stagger credibility, that professional disinterestedness should erect the standard of philanthropy, and give this general notice to affliction, to repair to the temple of renovated health, to lay its burthen down and to reassume that greatest of human blessings, a good constitution.—It shall be an invariable rule with me, and a governing principle in the prosecution of my present undertaking, to make self-interest but a secondary consideration to the good of my readers, as well as my patients ; when I deviate from this fundamental maxim, I shall be content that the punishment attending such dereliction may be the discontinuance of public favor.

I would wish to be clearly understood, that tho' the subject of the subsequent Treatise is meant to be
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the treatment and cure of the Venereal Disease, and its malignant consequences; yet, that I mean not to gratify or give the least encouragement to licentiousness, but that I shall treat this complaint and the disorders arising therefrom with that philosophical dignity, and that chaste morality, which, as they are its principle ornaments, so they should ever be the inseparable attendants on the medical character; real modesty shall have no cause, nor pretended modesty a pretext—for offence.

It is not my wish to light the foul torch of impurity, but to extinguish its black flame; where it has been kindled and to eradicate and oppose its subtle and secret operations on the human system. In an opulent and over grown Metropolis like this, dissipation must constitute a part of its local character, that unrestrained intercourse between the sexes in a country so relaxed as this is in morals; and where the chastity of young men is a subject of ridicule instead of applause, individual attachments are formed which promised on the outset
 inviolable

inviolable durability—but the neglect (if not disgust) which too frequently follows satiety, the lust of change, the disparity of circumstances, the influence of parental authority, or the more prevailing ones of interest, vanity, and ambition, destroy those temporary unions, and on the ruins of these transient attachments indiscriminate connections are formed; the consequent source from which those pestilential evils flow—equally hostile to human happiness, as to human propagation.—Chastity, therefore, being a virtue in young men, more to be wished than hoped for in this age, all that is left for medical humanity to do, is to caution youth against the contracting this fatal disorder—or to remove it as soon as possible after it has been contracted.

As the good of mankind is, as before observed, the primary object of my present undertaking, I anticipate the co-operation and future encouragement of every friend to humanity in carrying it into its most extended execution. If we
look

look at the melancholy catalogue of diseases which fill up the picture of human misery; we shall find the most dangerous date their origin from some ill-treated or neglected venereal taint. The laying down, therefore, the only certain method of preventing a disease of a nature so alarming, so distressing, and so fatal, will not, I am persuaded, be considered an object of small importance; and, as I doubt not of succeeding in this attempt, we then shall not have to lament the long list of incurables which at present disgrace the annals of medicine. It will be a death blow to those daring empirics in physic; those tinkers of the human constitution; who, should they by chance remove one temporary evil, introduce five permanent complaints into the human system; whose imprudence is an expletive to their ignorance, and whose rapacity has no limits, but in the purses of their credulous and devoted patients. A plan of this magnitude, comprehending such an extent, and embracing such a number of beneficial as well as benevolent objects, will, I doubt not, meet with that encouragement

couragement which it merits from my countrymen, whose national characteristics are disinterestedness, benevolence, and humanity.

Whether we view this undertaking through the medium of a moral or political light, we can clearly see the happy termination of its effects on society in either case. In the former, as earnestly cautioning youth from a deviation from the paths of prudence and virtue, and giving loose to irregular and destructive passions; by warning them of the consequences inevitably resulting from such an indulgence; and through the latter medium, as preserving the muscular character of our countrymen from degenerating into impotence, imbecility, or insignificance; for by debilitating and relaxing the powers of nature, we thereby impede the progress of population, which the wisest Legislators, in all ages, held to be the principal wealth of every State. The converse of the proposition of course, must be admitted, that every impediment to it tends to a national impoverishment.

OBSERVATIONS

ON

A LATE PUBLICATION OF DR. BUCHAN'S.

A PUBLICATION on the VENEREAL DISEASE, made its appearance under the name of Dr. BUCHAN, of Edinburgh, in 1796, on which I shall make a few observations.---This Gentleman has been at great pains to shew the inutility of physicians, while he retains a veneration for medicine, and thinks, or seems to think, that until the one is emancipated from the monopoly of the other, its blessings can never be generally diffused.

This observation, I am much inclined to think, proceeds from some mistaken opinion on the part of the Doctor, though perhaps he may have a sincere wish to do good, as there appears, through the whole tenor of his remarks, strong symptoms of some particular disrespect, which has led him to form this strange aversion to the faculty at large; how otherwise he could persuade himself into the opinion he has formed, I am at a loss to determine ?

In contemplating his wishes to serve mankind, and his many professions of disinterested benevolence to society, we almost overlook the extravagance of his propositions; but as too much credulity in professions of this stamp frequently mislead our judgment, it is necessary, when erroneous opinions are propagated, to canvas them fairly, and state our objections with temper and moderation, so as to convince the author of his faults, and the world of our sincerity, for though no one is compelled to adopt an erroneous system, yet every
man

man who knows it to be such, and consequently injurious to society, has a right, nay, indeed, is bound in justice to that society, to refute its errors, and shew its evil tendency.

Dr. Buchan adopts Dr. Rush's opinion, that to lay open the mysteries of medicine, and teach every man to be his own physician, would be of the last importance to mankind, especially as it would annihilate quacks. This measure would multiply the evil it was meant to remove, for by making every man his own physician, you make every man his own quack, if by ignorance of the healing art is meant a quack,

It is impossible to know any science well without studying and investigating first principles : by this means, appropriate applications are made in all cases; without this previous knowledge, chance instead of choice directs; for he that does not know which is best can have no choice,

It is a bad remedy in politics to introduce anarchy as a cure for despotism. To save your life or property from the cruelty or rapacity of one tyrant, you expose them to the danger of a thousand; this would be exactly the case with him, who, to exterminate a few illiterate quacks, would introduce an inundation of that description, by making every man his own physician. There is no need in pulling up the tares to pull the wheat also, however desirable to every liberal, honest mind, to see the whole race of quacks exterminated; yet, I believe, few would consent that the whole body of the faculty should be the sacrifice to effect it---a body, who from their learning, professional skill, and humanity, ought to be considered not only as one of the greatest ornaments of, but also as one of the *greatest* blessings attendant on, society.

Dr. Buchan says, to the enlightened age is owing, the *new order of things* in Governments, which he hopes to see extended to medicine:--- this is a Democratic sentiment with a vengeance :
liberty

liberty and equality claims the privilege of meddling with the Constitution of the State, why then should it not have the liberty of quacking our personal constitutions ?---thus physicians would rise as rapidly as Cadmus's foldiers. In this *new order of things*, Dr. Laet would hold as high a place in the page of fame as Dr. Fothergill. The indignation this language extorts from me, has led me into some digressional remarks, for which I beg my reader's pardon. I am sick of that profligate cant phrase---the enlightened age !---a term invented as a compliment of self-love, as a *commission* for licentiousness, as a palliative for crime in its descending degrees of atrocity, a term invented to justify the subversion of all order, and the extinction of the relative obligations connected with it. It is a flattering compliment to tell a cobbler in his stall now, that he is as wise and as intelligent as a bishop, a statesman, or a physician of the last century ; nay, that he is born with the inherent military virtues of an Eugene, or a Marlborough, and that he wants only a prompt occasion to bring forth their glittering lustre to the

world. It is well known what injury flattery may do sometimes to great minds, how then can its mischiefs be estimated, when it is given in such large doses to weak ones? The destructive consequences of the new philosophy of liberty and equality, shew too evidently to the world to need much comment.

Order is the fence and defence of society. This order subverted, the fence is broken down, and the weapons of defence wrested from it by anarchy. Is this a state to acquire knowledge in? Is this an age to open the eyes of mankind to the despotism of power,---to the arts of priestcraft? An age that makes——

REBELLION,---*virtuous.*

LOYALTY,---*a crime.*

RELIGION,---*a farce.*

INDISCRIMINATE MASSACRE,---*the road to Liberty
and Equality.*

PROSCRIPTION,---*political precaution.*

CONFISCATION

CONFISCATION,---*ways and means,*

INVASION of Neighbouring Territories,
 accompanied with all the merciless
 depredations of Calmuck Tartars,---
a dissemination of the glorious blessings of
Liberty and Equality.

AND

FRATERNIZATION, or the Fraternal embrace
 ---*Squeezing to Death !!!*

I must confess, that if the diabolical philosophy of the age, and *the atrocities sanctioned by its fundamental principles*, does not open the eyes of mankind to the blasphemous insult offered to the supreme Being, and this unexampled affront to the dignity of human reason, in thus attempting to turn the most horrid and flagitious vices into public virtues—I am at a loss to say what will.

In making this declaration, I would not have it understood as any dereliction of patriotic principles, no—I love liberty, tho' I hate anarchy—I idolize freedom, but I reprobate licentiousness--
 I love

I love a virtuous King, but I hate and despise a vicious, proud, obstinate, profligate Minister :— I love the sacred observance of the laws of my country, because, virtuously observed, they are the bulwarks of its rights, and the sentinels of social happiness :— perverted, neglected, or abused, they must bring dishonour, and ultimate destruction on my native country.

The most beautiful fabrics suffer dilapidations from time, let those be repaired, and the venerable temple may last with diffusive splendor for ages yet to come ! therefore, no friend to his country can wish a Revolution; no one that is not an enemy to its honour and prosperity, but wishes a reformation in representation;—for I take it to be a fundamental constitutional maxim—that the blessings or miseries of this country, will always bear a political ratio to the magnitude or diminution of ministerial influence.—These are the sentiments of sobriety; not the heated language of party enthusiasm, and facts of such patriotic inflexibility, that they will not yield to the menaces
of

of our avowed enemies; nor can they be overturned by the sophistry of our pretended friends. A real well wisher to himself, his country, or society, wishes not for a *new order of things*, (the common dissipated cant of the times) he only wishes for the restoration of the *old order of things*, that is, the restoration of peace, honor, the independence and happiness of his country, with all their accustomed social concomitant blessings:—this *old order of things* will never be restored, until a more equal representation in Parliament takes place;—and this I repeat again, that it is as demonstrable as any proposition in Euclid, that the miseries and burdens of this country will never be diminished until the venal majority of our House of Representation be lessened.

In any state of general fermentation, or the general adoption of new fangled opinions, it shews no great art to make an appeal to the popular side of the question:—on this principle Dr. B. has addressed the public; he has flattered their vanity at the expence of his own conviction, and
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the sacrifice of that truth which the experience of ages has unequivocally established. Namely, that the period assigned to human existence is too short to acquire a compleat knowledge of Physic; so abstruse, so variegated, so difficult, and so complicated are the avenues leading to such general knowledge; tho' Dr. Buchan makes a Physician as soon as his Majesty would make a Knight.

There is no doubt, however, but Dr. Buchan's Dedication to the public, has produced one good effect to himself—viz. a rapid sale of his book, --But this I openly declare, that sooner than abuse the public or decry, the necessary use of Physic, and the absolute utility of the learned body of Physicians,—I would prefer selling a dozen copies of one solitary edition of my work, in which I could have the happiness to rescue the public from becoming the dupes of an easy credulity, than in selling twelve hundred copies of as many editions—wherein I led them astray, either by propagating an imposition or disguising the truth.

The

The evils of sickness and disease, in their various forms, are the inheritance and the lot of human nature. It is, therefore, the most noble, as well as the most abstruse of all human sciences, to learn to counteract those effects so disastrous in their nature, as to wage perpetual war with the happiness of mankind.

It would certainly provoke military risibility to hear any one assert, that raw levies hastily embodied, were more to be depended on for offensive and defensive operations than veteran troops.

As well might the elevated piety, the glittering abilities, the illustration of moral life—in Usher, Tillitson, or Blair, be compared to the indigested nonsense, the heterogenous absurdity, the ridiculous extravagance of some of Westley's field preachers, as the utility of self-created Physicians, to those, who, by long and painful researches into the causes and cure of disease, have nearly arrived at the zenith of perfection—In this *new order of things*, I should not wonder to see the Ephemeris
of

of some astronomical Quack, put in competition, nay, receive a decided adoption, in preference to the *immortal Newton's system*, "*Men get so enlightened and so learned in this Age of Reason!*"

O Irony,—where is thy sneer ?

O Ridicule,—where is thy sarcastic smile ?

O Satyr,—where is thy sting ?

To reprobate this *new order of things!* this invasion of order, this introduction of chaos, this sacrilegious innovation on the sacred rights of social nature, reason, religion, and learning! the principles of which opinions are speculated in the privy counsel of Pandemonia, and reduced to practice on earth !

So much for politics, the *new order of things*, and the improbability and impossibility of such order having any other effect upon Physic than a bad one ; unless it should operate as a proclamation, under pain of death, to avoid taking any medical prescriptions from such mushroom Physicians as Dr. Buchan would wish to create.

Having

Having made the Venereal Disease the particular study of my life :—I have written a course of lectures on the subject, part of which are introduced in this work.—These lectures I have had the honour of delivering to very respectable and sometimes very crowded audiences; and there is no retrospect of my life, I contemplate with more pleasure, than the honourable testimony I received from some of the most enlightened and eminent characters in this kingdom, who honored me with a marked attention at their repeated delivery ;—not, I am certain, for any elegance of stile, or emphatical delivery, but for the industry displayed in the investigation and explanation of the equivocal and unequivocal symptoms, which are the indicatives of that subtle disease; to the originality of which, my claim stands universally admitted.

Though no character in society, no assumption whatever, no species of imposition, I reprobate more than a daring Empiric, yet to a person who has received a regular medical education, and where the aggregate of intellectual ability is directed

directed to one particular complaint, I contend for the possibility, nay, the certainty of his being able to effect a radical cure for this disorder; even in cases of accumulated inveteracy; in a very short time, much shorter than that said to be necessary by some very eminent Physicians. This declaration I am authorised to make, boldly in the face of the world, in diametric opposition to the opinion of Dr. B. not from hearsay or theory, but from my own immediate experience---the result of a long and extensive course of practice in this disease.

A General conscious of his own military skill, and the intrepidity of his army--takes a garrison by storm in 24 hours, that might not be taken in as many weeks, proceeding by the less ardent measure of sap; while the garrison may have various opportunities of taking in provisions and men--and by the same means, that it is strengthening, protracts the siege, and, consequently, renders its reduction more difficult.

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The case is exactly similar, when this disease is attacked by medical skill, no time should be lost to expel it--as by protracting the cure, you give a greater opportunity for the virus being absorbed and converting that which was only local, into a constitutional disease ; a variety of internal as well as external causes contribute to increase its malignity whilst lurking in the system, which makes a speedy expulsion the more indispensibly necessary. But as this expeditious cure cannot be accomplished but by superior skill and experience, I earnestly recommend to those afflicted, to be cautious to employ no one, but those who are universally distinguished for a *combination of practical with theoretical knowledge*. It is time that gives its principal inveteracy to this disorder : hence arises the *indispensible* obligation to patients of an early disclosure of their situation.--False shame exposes human life to as much danger as false courage : --therefore, whatever shame opinion may attach in contracting this disorder, there ought to be none in getting rid of it.

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If judicious precautions are used, such as I shall hereafter take occasion to mention, in the mode I have laid down for preventing this disease, it will, in a great many instances, supersede the necessity of any medical aid; but when once it takes hold of the system, tampering or quacking confirms it, and renders that permanent, and sometimes fatal, which was before but transient and fugitive.

Ignorant quacks, and quackers of themselves, cut out more work for the regular Physician, than the indiscriminate intercourse of the sexes, by reciprocal communication; *these facts being admitted, which*, indeed no rational man will attempt to deny, what then I say becomes of the pleasing but delusive theory of Dr. B. to teach every man to be his own Physician? Will the world attend to such theories? can it be supposed that mankind is so ignorant, as to believe, that to wrest the practice of Physic from the hands of the learned, the judicious, and experienced Physicians, and place it in those of mankind indiscriminately, would

would be of benefit to any people? surely not. Such a dangerous doctrine, teaches man to be the instrument of his own destruction, and the enemy of his species.

The following case, which recently came under my own immediate inspection, is such a striking instance of this folly of men attempting to cure, or rather quack themselves, that to illustrate it (as well as inculcate this momentous truth, and that it may operate as an example to prevent others from being wrecked on the same rock of presumption) I feel it a duty incumbent on me to relate it.

A young man who was a journeyman to a tradesman in Bishopsgate Street, contracted the Venereal Disease, and was infected with a Chancre on the Glans penis, as well as one on the prepuce, for the cure of which, he followed the directions of a celebrated author for a considerable time, but here the skill of the learned Doctor was completely frustrated; it was not sufficient to supply the patient with a list of various medicines,

that were of known efficacy in the cure of this complaint :--every one knows that mercury is a specific, but every one does not know how and when to apply it to advantage ; this knowledge is only to be obtained as the result of experience, and an attentive consideration to the various habits and peculiarities of constitutions ; this medical maxim is elucidated in the case under consideration ; for--altho' he followed the Doctor's directions of pushing the mercurial course, till his mouth became sore, and applied it externally, the disease, as he thought, still continued with greater violence ; he, therefore, increased his dose, and more frequently repeated the mercurial applications ; but here mercury was of all medicines the most pernicious, as the constitution of this patient was strongly disposed to inflammation, and the use of mercury consequently increased that inflammation, which it should have been his object to have lessened ; this neglect brought on such an amazing swelling of the prepuce and glans, as to oblige him to keep his bed : For the want of proper medical attendance, and judicious application, it terminated in a gangrene ; he continued in this shocking

shocking state, (the mortification having spread nearly over the whole of his testicles) for four days, without a momentary intermission, from the most excruciating pain: at this lamentable crisis, I was called in---to witness the deplorable end of this victim to self-quackery---to his adoption of the *new order of things!* which, among other inverted blessings, makes every man his own Physician !!

He was now so much reduced, by the effects of the mercury, and the disease, that there did not remain the least prospect of his recovery; however, after removing the sloughed parts, and ordering the necessary fomentation and poultices, I prescribed for him, two grains of opium, to be taken immediately, and two tea spoonfulls of the powder of bark, every hour, or oftener, if his stomach should be able to bear it; on my next visit, I found him still languishing and low, but the opium had procured a remission of his pain; the same medicines, with the aid of nourishing diet, was ordered to be continued, but without the desired effect, as the patient expired the next day,

leaving an useful memorial, and a lasting impression on the mind, how easy it is to be first the dupe, and next the victim of ridiculous vanity; by supposing that reading a treatise on this subject, however elegantly written, such a sufficient share of medical knowledge may be acquired, as to enable unprofessional men, successfully to treat every species of Venereal infection with safety.

If this patient had applied in the early stage of the complaint, to any well informed practitioner, he would, from the appearance of the chancre, have been able to have discovered the constitutional disposition to inflammation; and consequently would have abandoned the use of mercury, until he had corrected this constitutional disposition; for by continuing the application of mercury in this case, he encreased that disease which he intended to have lessened, and the livid appearance of the skin, which is one of the characteristic signs of the commencement of mortification, he took as a proof of the great degree of virulence of the venereal poison, and of course in-

creased.

created his mercurial applications, when they ought to have been totally laid aside. For the want of a right discrimination, which is only to be acquired by a regular medical education, aided by experience, and the proper remedies necessary to be applied when the inflammation was likely to terminate in a gangrene, produced this catastrophe, and brought an early and young sacrifice to the altar of that destructive absurdity of self-cure, and the adoption of the doctrine of self-created physicians !

This doctrine needs only to be mentioned to be reprobated, the above, with many similar cases which I could adduce, sufficiently prove it.

I shall not trouble my readers with any further comment, it would be only to insult their understanding. If I tell a man there is a well dug in a certain place, of sixty feet deep, and that there is no covering on the surface, I think it would be a superfluous precaution to tell him, at the same time, not to stay much on the brink, or to go that way on a dark night lest he might fall into

it. I shall, therefore, content myself by saying, that it is a parallel case of destruction, with a man falling into the danger of becoming his own physician who has no medical knowledge.

Secrecy in this disease is very necessary, from various combining causes, and if I mistake not, this truth was pretty well known before the publication of Dr. Buchan's elaborate Treatise. It is an excellent bait to credulity to believe what Dr. Buchan holds out, with a *flattering promise, that patients can cure themselves in secret*—I tell such patients as attempt it a tremendous truth—viz. *that they can also kill themselves in secret*; and that too by the very means they attempt to cure themselves! To say any more on the subject of *self-cure* would, I think, be useless; to say less, would be criminal in a man of scientific experience.

ANTIQUITY

A N T I Q U I T Y
OF THIS
D I S O R D E R.

It would be foreign to my plan to enter into a detail of a subject which has been spun out to the length of volumes by elaborate and able writers, all of whom that I could ever procure, I have attentively read; among such a variety of writers, it is natural to suppose, there must be a variety of opinions, some arguing hypothetically, and some from supposed inductions, others from established and admitted facts, and their consequent inferences.

Amidst the variety of opinions respecting the origin and antiquity of this disorder, some may, with safety, be adopted, as others, with equal propriety, should be rejected.

In our pursuit after truth, especially when that pursuit is dictated by humanity, and the general
good

good of mankind, Moralists should adopt a principle similar to that of Mathematicians: *viz.*--- That the greater number of lines drawn from the periphery, to the point of concentrated intersection in a circle, the greater the proof that this point was the true center of such circle, so, the greater concurrence of respectable opinions on any dubious subject, establishes, to a moral certainty, *that* this coincidence of opinion is the center of truth. On this rational basis, I have, therefore, erected the superstructure of my own opinion, and which, with humble deference and respect, I have now the pleasure to lay before the public.

Some writers stick not to assert, that this was the disorder which that great prince of antiquity, Job, so renowned for his wealth, sufferings, and patience, was afflicted with ; (but this opinion needs only to be mentioned to be refuted) and that the leprosy, so universal in Asiatic countries, was nothing more or less in nature or malignity, than what we now call the Venereal Disease. But though disorders may be similar, we are not
thence

thence to conclude they are the same, as I shall hereafter shew, with respect to the two now under comparative consideration. At what time this dreadful malady, (the very idea of which poisons the source of our most happy moments) was first introduced among mankind in general, or in Europe in particular, is a matter not easily to be ascertained---thus much we may affirm, from accounts transmitted to us by ancient writers, that the lues, with its horrid and fatal symptoms, such as we find it described, by medical and other writers, towards the end of the fifteenth century, had been unknown among the Greeks and Romans, though they were as much addicted to gallantry, as the French, or any other modern nation; otherwise, their Physicians, who are scrupulously minute, in recording both the diseases known before and in their own time, would have mentioned it, as well as their cures, but we find they are silent, as to the Venereal Disease; hence it is clear that they knew of no such disorder, and though it is not much more than 300 years since this complaint made its appearance

pearance in Europe ; there has been several hundred volumes, written on this disease, in the course of that period---Another opinion endeavoured to be established on the antiquity of this complaint, is, applying the description of the progressive stages of pestilential disorders, to that of the Venereal, and although there may be some trifling similitude, yet they are quite distinct, the former being produced, through wet seasons, pestiferous damps and dews, and rendered it additionally malignant, by the wind being in certain points ; whereas the latter, is in general only contracted by coition. Galen himself, entertains the same opinion with Hippocrates, respecting pestilential disorders.

Mr. Anspruch, late Physician to Louis the XI. of France, a Gentleman of profound learning and indefatigable industry, has written a treatise on this subject, wherein he takes great pains, to shew---that this disease was endemical to the Antilles and the Island of Hispaniola, discovered by Columbus, and fixes the first period of its introduction

duction into Spain, and consequently into Europe, at the end of the year 1494, by one Pedro de Mergait, a Catelonian Gentleman, who arrived with the mother of Columbus, from the new world:---the same author adds, that in October, 1495, when Columbus fell under the displeasure of Isabella, Queen of Castile and Leon, he was brought by her orders, back to Spain, with 400 of his soldiers, all afflicted with the Venereal Disease; here Mr. Anspruch, quotes a variety of Physicians, equally distinguished---for their veracity, as intelligence, together with many respectable historians, to prove that the venereal disease was then common in Hispaniola, and the adjacent islands, and that it was by the Spaniards brought over in the ships that went on the above expedition with Columbus.

So far physicians and historians seem to agree. Physicians of that time say, the whole arcana of medicine was sought, but sought in vain, for a remedy for it; hence it appears clear, that the disorder was an exotic in Europe, as no cure was
known

known for it, and that a remedy ought consequently to be sought, and which has since been fortunately found.

From Spain it was soon communicated to Italy and Portugal, in both of which kingdoms, they called it the Spanish Pox, as did the French, which contagion they caught in the various changes of the war, carried on at that time against the Spaniards in Italy, where the wenches, who followed the respective camps, became the alternate property of either army, as they were respectively victorious.

We, as receiving such a favour, from our neighbours the French, from a principle of *politeness*, as well as *gratitude*, have called it the French Pox.

It has travelled with commercial celerity through most parts of the habitable globe, the last place receiving it, calling it by the name of the country from whence it was imparted--Gonzalvo

Fernandz

Fernandz de Oviedo, who accompanied Columbus in his discovery of the Antilles Islands, says, the women there, from habitual nastiness and indolence, often lived on worms, spiders, serpents, bats, and on a kind of lizard, palatable indeed, but poisonous to any but the natives;---which induced Dr. Lister to give a decided opinion, that this was the cause of producing the Venereal poison in these islands, and from which a rational presumption is drawn, of their engendering in the very blood, a complicated species of poison; another circumstance he mentions, and it is such, indeed as will apply to all women under the torrid zone, that in their menstrual state, they are so intolerably hot, and so unusually indecent, that they frequently lay in open highways, intreating and provoking indiscriminate connections with men, the heterogeneity of whose semen, co-operating in conjunction with the two causes just mentioned, compleated the venereal poison, and gave it that complexion, it wore at its first introduction into Europe, by the soldiers of Columbus.

It would far exceed the limits of my present plan, to enter into an individual refutation of all the contemporary opinions, with respect to the origin and antiquity of this disease, maintained by Sydenham, Bennett, Arden, &c. &c. &c.--- together with many others---as,

First, That it was known to the Greeks and Romans.

Secondly, That it was known in Europe, before the year 1423 or 4, as above mentioned, and particularly in France.

Thirdly, That it is but another name for the leprosy; which latter disorder, they say disappeared at its introduction.

To these three principles, and general assertions, I shall particularly and briefly reply.

To the first, That it was known to the Greeks and Romans.

I say

I say not;—and for the reason already assigned, viz. that all their medical books are silent on the nature and malignity of the venereal poison, (at least all that ever came under my perusal) though it is alleged, as a proof on the other hand, that it was because the very appellatives of the parts of the disease are Greek words; such as phymosis, paraphymosis, &c. Granted. But this proves no more, than that there was a disorder something similar to it among the ancient Greeks and Romans, who were, it is admitted, licentious and lascivious in the extreme; and that from the excess of venery (though even among sound persons of both sexes) it produced those inflammations, excreffences, &c. which, while they continued their unbridled licentiousness, made remedies and relief necessary, but as soon as the repetition of contact ceased, its consequences ceased also; but let those who maintain that this was the Lues Venera, the same we now have, hear an undeniable proof that it was not that which is just observed:— that as soon as the Roman votaries to Venus

left off their sacrifices, their respective disorders left them. Is this the case with the Venereal poison at this day?---Sad experience says ---no!---For the peculiar malignity of this disorder is such, that notwithstanding they discontinue their intercourse with infected or sound females, the complaint still rages with increasing fury, and nature has no power inherent, as in other disorders, to stop or free herself from the progress of this calamitous disease.

2d. That the *Lues Venera* was known in Europe before the year 1494, and particularly in France. If this assertion is true, it is somewhat very extraordinary, that Francis the First of France, should not find a remedy for it in his whole kingdom, where it was so boldly asserted to have reigned for centuries before. Francis caught it by an affair of gallantry with a tradesman's wife, to which he ultimately fell a victim. Hence it is clear, that though the disorder was known, its cure was not. It will also appear not only strange, but absurd, that had the venereal disorder

order been known in France, for such an alleged length of time, before the year 1493 or 4, at which period, I have already, I hope, sufficiently proved its introduction into Europe by Columbus's adventures, that the Government and police of Paris, would not take the same pains which they afterwards did, in October, 1497, to prevent its ravages, at which time a decree was published, commanding every person in that metropolis, suspected of the venereal infection, or who were found to be actually infected with it, to depart the city in 24 hours under pain of death, to prevent the dissemination of this (then) new disorder. The provincials, suspected of having it, were ordered home to their respective countries from whence they came, and to return no more, till proofs of health should be produced, under pain of death ; and the inhabitants of Paris, who were infected, to be carried to the suburbs of Saint Germain, a place prepared for their accommodation, there to be kept till they produced certificates of their complete restoration to health,

under the incommutable penalty of death, for returning without such certificate !

If then, the Lues Venera was, as it has been erroneously asserted to be, so well known in Paris before the period alluded to, why so alarmed at its danger from contagion, when it could not be diffeminated but by coition, or by contact ; and on the other hand, if it was so well known for centuries before, why not know the remedies to remove it, from all which combining and corroborating circumstances and proofs, it will appear evident to any unprejudiced observer, that it was a disorder lately introduced, for which there was at that time, no known, or at least no certain remedy, and that, in consequence of its novelty, its ravages became more dreaded ; and its virulence getting strength in proportion to its continuance without a cure, caused the above violent coercive decree to be passed, which never would have been done, if the opinion of its being a disorder of some centuries continuance there, was founded in truth.

Now

Now I come to the refutation of the 3d and last of those general assertions, viz.

That it was but another name for the the Leprosy, which disappeared at its introduction.— In answer to which, I beg leave to insist, that no two disorders incident to the human system, could be more distinct or separate. In leperous persons, the genitals are not more affected than any other part. The venereal disease never produces that insensibility, that was the concomitant companion of leprosy, and gave rise to the proverb, “ *As stupid as a leper.*” The elephantiosis or leprosy, most physicians that have written on it, affirm, that patients were seldom or never cured of it, whereas the very worst stage of the venereal disorder, in skilful hands, will generally admit of a cure.

When the Lues first made its appearance in Paris, so cautious were the commissioners of health, to prevent any intercourse between the two descriptions of afflicted, that is, the lepers

and the poxed, that they took houses on purpose for the leprous, to prevent their catching the venereal disease, and thereby add one calamity to another, under the idea, that the issue of such connection, would entail additional hereditary destruction on mankind.

And with respect to that part of the general charge now under consideration, which says, that the leprosy immediately disappeared on the introduction of the Lues Venera, the contrary of such assertion is proved by the concurrent testimony of most of the respectable physicians of Europe, who unanimously agree, that the leprosy was not extinguished in Europe, until about one hundred years after the period of introducing the venereal poison from the Antilles, as before mentioned. Thus did the leprosy die, (if I may use the expression), a natural death, as we have several instances of other dreadful disorders dying, and are no more heard of, viz.

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St. Anthony's fire in France, which raged with such destructive violence in the ninth and tenth centuries, — the sweating sickness in England, — and the sneezing sickness in Ireland.

Thus have I, I hope, to the satisfaction of my readers, clearly refuted the three once popular opinions, particularized as above, and settled the origin of the disorder from the Antilles; refuted the opinion of its being known to the ancient Greeks and Romans; and finally, the absurdity of its being another name for leprosy. Having now given a history of the disorder, I shall make a few observations on the venereal infection.

Concerning the nature of the Venereal Poison, we know no more than we do about that of the small-pox, or any other species of contagious disorders: we know only, that the smallest particle of this poison is sufficient to bring on the most violent disorders over the whole system, and like other contagions, it requires, sometime after being introduced into the system, before it produces that

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effect.

effect. I am of opinion, that the venereal virus, has not its different degrees of acrimony, but that it is the same in every patient, it differing only with regard to particular parts to which it is applied, and to the different habits and constitutions of the persons who receive it. I am led to a confirmation of this opinion, from observing, in the course of my extensive practice, a number of patients who have contracted a confirmed lues venera, from persons who were only infected with an apparent slight clap and *vice versa*. I have observed patients with claps, communicate to persons who have had connections with them, a confirmed pox.

It has been supposed by some medical writers, that mercury destroys the venereal virus by its sedative; others by its evacuant; and some by its astringent properties; but I am convinced, it does not act on this complaint by its possessing any of these qualities, if it did, opium, as being a more powerful sedative than mercury, would be a better remedy. Gambage Elaterium are greater evacu-
ents;

ents; vitriol, balustines and bark, are considerably superior as astringents; yet none of these medicines have the power of curing the venereal disease. I am, therefore, decidedly of opinion, that mercury possesses a certain and specific power of counteracting the venereal virus, by mixing with the poison, and changing it into that which is no more hurtful to the system, but possesses some new properties, which neither of them had before they were so united.

We know the small-pox is about three weeks before it makes its appearance, after the infection is received from the atmosphere, and eight or ten days by inoculation; but the venereal virus seems to keep no particular period, sometimes attacking the patient a few hours after an impure connection, and at other times remaining several days before it makes its appearance.

The generality of men feel the first symptoms of a clap between the second and fifth day, but there are instances which have come under my
own

own observation, where it did not appear till after as many weeks: thus the greatest part of mankind are easily infected with the venereal poison; but there are some who seem altogether to bid defiance to its effects, for, notwithstanding that they run every risk, they escape without ever being the least infected. So it is with some, who, though they go into infected places, never catch the small-pox, although they expose themselves to inoculation, or every hazard by which the disease is generally communicated. Some persons are more liable to be infected than others, seemingly of the same habit of body—nay, the very same person is more liable to be infected at one time than at another; and those who have been once infected, are more liable to catch the infection a second time, than those who never were infected with the disease. The same difference is observable in the progress made by the disease after the patient is infected; in one patient the progress is slow, and the disease appears scarce to gain any ground; while in another it advances
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with the utmost rapidity, and speedily produces the most terrible symptoms.

The climate, season, age, state of health, are, perhaps, as in other diseases, the necessary predisposing causes in these cases. I have likewise seen instances where the virus has laid four, five, or six weeks, on the surface of the genitals, before it was observed, and had it not then produced a chancre, it might probably not have been absorbed. I have very frequently observed, that common women have communicated the disease to a variety of men in the space of a few days, while themselves appeared not to be in the least infected, owing to the venereal virus remaining in the vagina, without being carried into the system by absorption. With respect to the time the poison may remain in the blood before it produces venereal symptoms after being absorbed, is a matter not easily to be ascertained; but it is universally known to the profession, that it has remained in the system for months, and even years, before it has produced evident signs of its being venereal.

real. I shall elucidate this observation by relating a recent, but melancholy and fatal case of a young man, who was under the care of a medical friend of mine.

This patient was afflicted with a small chancre on the glands penis, for the cure of which he had recourse to a certain patent pill; after continuing the use of them for two or three months, without finding himself compleatly well, he applied (as he informed my friend) to almost all the different nostrums now advertised for the cure of this complaint. In the course of ten months the chancre healed, and he conceiving himself well, married. About eighteen months after, he felt a considerable degree of soreness in his throat, indeed he had often slight uneasinesses, which he attributed to cold, but it now became so alarming, as to induce him to apply for assistance to a neighbouring apothecary, informing him it proceeded from a cold; all the usual medicines in that case were applied, but applied without the least effect, and the patient became so much reduced

duced by the rapid increase of the disorder, as to require the further assistance of Dr. Meyer, Physician to Finsbury Dispensary, who, as soon as he inspected the throat of his patient, pronounced it venereal. His situation was now become truly deplorable—the bones of the throat, nose, cheeks, and forehead, were diseased; the caries bones of the cheeks pushing the eyes nearly out of their sockets, the eyes continued considerably swollen with violent pain for about three weeks, the sight diminishing all that time, till at last it was totally lost. In this lamentable and distressed situation, he was removed to the London Hospital, where he lived about a fortnight, the disease still continuing its cruel ravages, till at last he became a most horrid spectacle, and his groans and sufferings were so great, as to induce the whole ward to join with him in prayers for his speedy dissolution!

This fatal case I hope will be a caution to the credulous, not to trust to the efficacy of nostrums for their cure: there is scarce any disease
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in which more peop'e pretend to skill than this, and among the whole hords of empyrics that infest, by their predatory ravages, this metropolis, there is hardly one who does not pretend to be in possession of some particular medicine, such as pills, drops, syrups, and other inefficacious and contemptible nostrums, which, according to their vender's accounts, have performed greater wonders, than if assisted by more than supernatural aid. Thus, with consummate impudence, they impose on such patients as have the misfortune to fall into their hands, and who, sooner or later, generally suffer for their credulity; as was the instance with the unfortunate patient whose case I have just related.

It is undoubtedly true, that the cure of this disorder, in all its different stages, requires not only a great variety of medicines, but a considerable degree of judgment in the choice and dose of these medicines, and likewise such an exact knowledge of the constitution of the patient, as is not obtained but by attentive experience and
judicious

judicious observation. Hence more than common abilities are often necessary, perfectly and radically to cure confirmed lues, or venereal complaints which have been improperly treated.

The great number of unfortunate victims to ignorance and rapacity which we daily see, are but so many confirmations of the truth of this assertion. Formerly, venereal complaints were more violent, and more frequently fatal, than at present; this has been accounted for by the superior malignity of the nature of the poison at that time—as experience has shewn that it afterwards grew more mild;—this I do not admit to be generally the case, as I have had patients under my care, whose cases have been, in all their different symptoms, as violent and inveterate as any described by authors of the seventeenth century; but it must be acknowledged that those dreadful complaints are by no means so frequently fatal as in former times. It is by some supposed to become milder by its diffusion through mankind; but I am of opinion, that it is in consequence of
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the present superior method of cure, now adopted,—a method arising from long experience, and justified by long successful practice.

It was the custom in former times, to suffer the unfortunate persons, afflicted with the lues venerea, to die, without attempting to render them the least assistance, conceiving this disease to be contagious and incurable; but sometime after, a remedy being discovered, and those absurd prejudices expelled, patients applied for relief and obtained it from more humane and better instructed physicians and surgeons, and it is to be attributed principally to this, that the complaint is less frequent now than formerly. And also, that the different symptoms are less violent in London, than in any other part of Europe.

The benevolent mind must contemplate with infinite pleasure, the number of noble and excellent charitable Institutions that abound in this metropolis, where the afflicted poor in all complaints, easily find the best medical assistance administered

ministered to them in every degree of tenderness and attention, even the female sex, who would perhaps, be deterred by shame from applying to such places, easily find some benevolent and intelligent practitioner, who will undertake to cure them without any remuneration whatever.

No branch of medicines has, perhaps, received so many valuable improvements from modern practice, as the treatment of the different venereal complaints. These improvements, I venture to say, were principally made, because medical men themselves were as much subject to these complaints as any other person, and I believe, that amongst the various diseases to which mankind are subject, there is none of which the cure is now more easy and certain than that of the venereal disease, if properly and judiciously treated; but on the other hand, if neglected or improperly treated, we see it often, not only extremely obstinate, but sometimes incurable and fatal, and it is an indisputable truth, that many persons have their constitutions
 F broken,

broken, and suffer more by unskilful treatment, than by the disease itself.

It has been observed, that the violence of a venereal complaint has abated in the same proportion that medical knowledge has been diffused among the different nations. I am, therefore, convinced, that should the method which I shall hereafter recommend, be put in execution, with proper regulations and precautions, by mankind, in whatever climate, under the salutary guidance of medical instructions, all the symptoms of the venereal disease, would not only be rendered uncommon, but the disease itself might in time be regressively and totally annihilated.

I shall now state the various ways in which an healthy person may contract this disease from another who is unhealthy ; I think they may be reduced to the five following heads :—

First, By the coition of an healthy person with another who is infected with the venereal symptoms of the genitals.

Secondly,

Secondly, By the coition of an healthy person, with one who is apparently healthy, this is accounted for by the virus being concealed without producing any bad symptoms. It is frequently the case, that a woman who has been infected two or three days, often gives the complaint to men, who have had connection with her, without any visible appearance of the disease upon herself. A man may infect a woman in the same manner. Such instances almost every day occur to me in my practice.

Thirdly, By sucking—the wet-nurse in this case must have her nipples infected with the venereal virus, which will occasion venereal ulcers on the child's nose, mouth, lips; and, *vice versa*, the child having venereal ulcers in the mouth, may infect the nipples of the nurse.

Fourthly, By exposing to the contact of the venereal poison, any part of the surface of the body, by kissing, touching, &c. especially if the parts have been previously excoriated,

wounded, or ulcerated, by any cause whatever. Thus, we frequently see Midwives and Surgeons infected with this disease, by delivering women who have had this complaint upon them. I have likewise seen instances where persons have given themselves the complaint, by rubbing the finger on the nostrils, lips, eyelids, with which they had been touching their own diseased genitals, or any others, without previously washing the hands.

Fifthly, By a lancet or knife infected with the venereal virus, and afterwards used for opening or wounding any part of the body.

As there is at present some dangerous and unhappy prejudices generally prevailing about the venereal disease, and its cure, I shall make some observations on them:—

Some patients entertain an opinion, that should the venereal poison be thoroughly introduced into the system, they never can have it
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completely eradicated, and therefore look upon themselves as incurable: this is not only an unfounded, but an absurd opinion, and renders those who entertain it extremely unhappy; the female sex especially are more inclined than ours to encourage this ridiculous opinion; and I have frequently observed such patients lead a most miserable life, notwithstanding all that could be said by the person who attended them to the contrary. —These patients strongly excite our compassion, and claim our most careful attention,—for I hardly know of any thing more distressing to the mind, than to be perpetually haunted with such frightful chimeras—a slight pain in the head, a trifling attack of the rheumatism, or a little pimple on the skin, is immediately concluded on as a convincing proof of the disease still lurking in the habit, and about to produce the most fatal effects. These foolish prejudices should be corrected, by setting the examples of others before them, who have been as much, and perhaps a great deal more, afflicted than themselves; and after a great number of years, enjoy

a good state of health, and frequently blessed with healthy and fine children.

Another opinion equally absurd is, that if mercury is once taken for the cure of the venereal disease, it will not so effectually cure it a second time. Prejudices of this kind are more frequently, (as I have just mentioned) confined to women, and even men are sometimes influenced by this childish opinion.

I shall mention another prejudice, which is equally wicked, as it is absurd, and can only exist in men of the most abandoned and brutal dispositions. These inhuman wretches suppose the best way to get rid of a gonorrhea, is to have connections with healthy women; thus we see this complaint communicated to a dozen different women in a few days, and a variety of unfortunate victims left a prey to the ravages of this calamitous complaint. This arises from a mean and contemptible spirit of revenge upon those who had never injured them, and from a
vain

vain hope of abating the virulence of their own condition, having by their own licentiousness and drunkenness, become dupes to others, exercise the malignity of retribution on other women, who thus become the incautious victims of insidious importunity and unmanly lust.

OF THE

GONORRHEA.

THE GONORRHEA takes some time before it makes its appearance after infection, being sometimes quicker, sometimes slower, seldom so early as within twenty-four hours, and very rarely so late as after twelve days; but in general, it makes its appearance about the fourth or fifth day.

The gonorrhœa, or clap, is a virulent discharge of matter from the mucus glands of the urethra produced by the venereal poison being deposited in those parts, attended with more or less difficulty

culty in evacuating the urine, which, while passing, occasions a scalding pricking, burning sensation the whole length of that canal, so as to prevent the patient letting the urine flow in a continual stream, but obliges him to let it come away in little squirts, which adds considerably to the pain. This dysuria seldom or never produces a fever, it being in general but a local inflammation, and like others of the same kind, seldom affects the whole system. This discharge is never semen, as some patients suppose, as all matter discharged from the urethra in men, and vagina in women, is nothing more than the mucus of those parts secreted in larger quantities than when in a healthy state, and changed its colour and consistency by the venereal irritation. This discharge seldom arises from an ulcer or ulcers in the passage, for out of the numerous patients I have cured of a gonorrhea, I do not recollect five who have had any ulcers in the urethra, though both sexes are equally liable to this disease, yet the symptoms, diagnostics and prognostics differ greatly, and this difference

difference is requisite to be known, in order to know the best method of cure.

It is easy to conceive also, that different habits and constitutions require a mode of treatment diametrically opposite, I, therefore, think that, in these cases, more attention should be paid to the nature of the constitution, and less to the disease itself. The nature of the constitution is collected from the peculiar effects, for the operation of the poison is so different in different people, as to require a consequent variety of treatment, a circumstance little attended to by the generality of practitioners, each acting as though he had a specific for every different symptom apparent in every different constitution; forgetting, that though the disorder is the same, the constitution constitutes the difference in its various external assumptions, and which constitutional difference, creates of course, the necessity of different modes of cure.

Various

Various proofs of the validity of this doctrine will arise, upon the slightest consideration.—In innoculating for the small-pox, we find very often great variability in the disease—and this cannot, it is clear, be owing to the matter by which the disease is communicated, having any variability of action; for the same matter, taken from the very same pock, will produce, in different habits, a disease of a very different nature, complexion, and aspect.

With respect to mildness and malignity, it is, therefore, obvious, the variation must arise from some deviation in the various habits, which will require different modes of cure. It is exactly the same with the venereal virus—and proves the fallacy and folly of trusting to any nostrum, for the cure of a complaint, which requires as great a variety of medicines, as any other to which the human system is subject.

GONOR-

GONORRHŒA,

The Method of Cure.

FROM the opinion that is generally entertained of this species of the disorder, viz. that whatever shapes it may assume, it always springs from the same source—It might be inferred, that as specifics are known for some stages of it, consequently such specifics might be general in their application to all; but however plausible this opinion may appear in theory, it is not confirmed by practice.

Common inflammations are cured by irritable applications—irritable inflammations, on the contrary, are cured by soothing applications. In cases where irascibility runs high, nothing should be done, either internally or externally, which may contribute to stop the discharge, as that may be done without stopping the inflammation. I
would

would recommend, by appropriate remedies, to effect a gradual alteration in the constitution, and thereby check or extinguish the disposition to action in the parts—but where this cannot be done with efficacy, it is better to let the action exhaust, and ultimately extinguish itself.

When the disease is so far subdued as to assume a mild form, its total eradication may be effected, either by internal remedies or external application. If an external cure is attempted, violence must be cautiously avoided, as it may bring back the irritation.—At this stage of the disorder, I would recommend gentle astringents—but if the disorder should have begun mildly, and nothing indicative of the common or irritable inflammation appears, then an irritating injection may be used—this will give a temporary aggravation to the symptoms, but when discontinued, they will either abate, or totally disappear. I would recommend astringents also in this case—in proportion as the symptoms of the gonorrhea differ, or make it necessary, I would alternately recommend

mend evacuants and astringents—I would also recommend those evacuants which are of the purgative, or diuretic kind, as acting on the urinary passages mechanically, by washing off the venereal matter. I would also recommend to keep the body open almost in all cases, as contributing essentially to the facilitation of the cure, I have recommended with success, calomel, which I have known to have almost an instantaneous good effect. I am not singular in my recommendation of purgatives, several gentlemen of professional celebrity have done, and still do, the same,—and I adopted it on the general principle, that humours lay the foundations of all, or most, diseases, incident to the human system, and that purgatives are the most infallible means of ejecting such humours.

Injectiōns to suppress venereal inflammations in the urethra, are unquestionably useful—but as the repetition of them depends on the symptoms, a proper degree of caution must be observed in
this

this particular instance, lest their intended efficacy might be counteracted by irritation.

The injections which I have found most efficacious, in the course of my practice, are sedative, emollient, and astringent—all which, as I am sanctioned by experience in approving, so am I impelled, from justice, and a principle of philanthropy, to recommend them.

Sedative injections may be composed of twelve or fourteen grains of *Saccarum Saturni*, in seven or eight ounces of distilled water, make a good sedative astringent injection.—The free use of diluting liquors, as having a sedative effect, I would recommend, as it lessens the susceptibility of irritation. Vegetable—mucilages of some seeds and plants—and the emollient gums, as by the impregnation of those mucilaginous substances, with the patient's drink it lessens the pain, and enlarges the power of making water.

Emollient

Emollient injections are decidedly the best where the inflammation is aggravated;—a solution of gum arabic, milk and water, or sweet oil, is also very efficacious. Emollients may also be used externally—I have tried them with success in fomentations, in cases where the orifice of the urethra was so irritated, that the syringe could not enter.

Astringent injections—Their influence extends no farther than by diminishing the discharge, and by gradually lessening it, and without encreasing the inflammation, they complete the cure.—Dragon's-blood, balsams, and the turpentine dissolved in water—the juices of vegetables, as oak-bark, tormentil-root, and Peruvian-bark, are under the head of Astringents.

The best external applications I have known to have a proper effect, are poultices and fomentations; but they are most useful in circumstances where the external parts, such as the prepuce glands, and orifice of the urethra, are
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in a certain degree inflamed. I have known mercurial ointment, with an emollient poultice over it, to be used to the surfaces, where the progress of inflammation appeared; but this, unless in some very peculiar cases, I cannot recommend, it being as liable to increase as diminish the evil intended to be removed.

Of the Cure of the Gonorrhea in Women.

IN women, the cure of the Gonorrhea differs little from the manner of cure in men. The disease being milder, the secondary symptoms are consequently less numerous. This arises from the parts not being so liable to inflammation, hence the cure is less complex.

When the disease is in the vagina only, it is easily cured. Injections are the best means that can be used, it will be necessary as well as efficacious,

G

cious, to wash the external parts often with the injection. If the inflammation extends itself to the urethra, injections then become inconvenient, if not very difficult, the canal being so narrow and interrupted.—The injections for men are of equal utility here, but they will admit of being made doubly strong, as the parts of women are not near so irritable, as the ordinary seat of this disease in men. It is more difficult to ascertain the precise period of cure in women than in men, for this reason, when the symptoms have ceased, the patient may conclude the cure to be complete; but a new examination of the parts often proves the contrary, especially where the disease has only affected the vagina, but not the urethra. Where inflammation runs along the ducts of the glands, whether those of the mouth of the vagina or urethra, or affects the glands themselves, the same method is to be followed. If the inflammation on the mouth of the ducts is so great as to shut them up, the ducts and glands will necessarily suppurate, and frequently form abscesses. In such case, it will be necessary to open them.

them, or enlarge the opening already formed, and dress the abscess as a chancre or bubo. At the same time, the constitution is to be treated as in chancres and buboes, lest absorption should take place, which is the parent of the lues venerea, and which to prevent, I should recommend a grain of *mercurius calcinatus* to be taken every night, which may be sufficient; the continuance of the remedy to depend on the duration of the disease.

To prevent painful sensations in the parts, I have recommended a certain number of drops of *Tinctura Thebaica* to be taken going to bed. The *Cicuta* I have also recommended, it is serviceable but not in the degree the *Tinctura Thebaica* is.

How the Chordee is to be Treated.

BLEEDING I have found useful, and the application of leeches to the parts.—Relief is also ob-

tained by exposing the penis to the steam of water, in which water-cresses has been boiled.

Poultices and fomentations, with the addition of camphor I have found of great service—mercurial ointment afterwards applied to the parts, will promote the absorption of the extravasated coagulable lymph. In relieving the chordee, which arises from spasm, I have in such cases recommended the bark with effect.

Of the Affection of the Bladder from Gonorrhea.

WHEN the bladder partakes of the irritation or inflammation, I would recommend opiate clysters. A warm bath, bleeding freely, more especially if the patient is of a corpulent gross habit of body, and also leeches applied to the perinaum.

Of

Of the swelled Testicle.

No particular mode of cure can possibly be prescribed for this particular species of venereal complaint. In the course of my practice, wherever I met with it, I treated it invariably as inflammation in general, viz. by ordering bleeding, purging, fomentation, and poulticing, and directing the patient to the immediate use of the truss. When the inflammation was subdued, but not before, I ordered mercurials, and this only when the induration remained. Cases of the swelled testicle require particular care and attention on the part of the practitioner.

The following distressing and fatal case, shews too evidently the danger of patients incautiously employing inexperienced persons, totally unacquainted with the nature and cure of this complaint.

A quaker gentleman, who resided in Holywell-street, contracted a gonorrhea, to prevent an exposure of his situation, he took obscure apartments near East Smithfield, and put himself under the cure of a gentleman, who has had for several years, these words written over his door, "*Just arrived from France.*" The gentleman had been under his care about three weeks, when a swelled testicle made its appearance, his servant was sent to inform the Doctor of this circumstance, who prescribed for his patient, mercurial ointment, sent a box of pills, and a bottle of diet drink, with directions to rub the ointment on the swelling twice a day, and take two of the pills every night and morning, drinking half a pint of diet drink. The consequence of so improper an application as mercurial ointment to the testicles in a high state of inflammation, must be obvious to every medical man: the inflammation and swelling was increased to such an astonishing degree, that in less than ten days after the mercurial application, they were as large as a child's head of two years old: it is impossible for a patient to be
in

in this situation without being attended with its concomitant companion, a fever: the servant seeing the dreadful state his master was reduced to, called in without his consent (for the gentleman would not suffer himself to be seen by any medical gentlemen) a neighbouring surgeon, but notwithstanding all necessary applications were made use of, the inflammation terminated, as most inflammations do, that have been in the beginning improperly treated, in a mortification, which in a few days put a period to the existence of this unfortunate patient, who fell a victim to an union of these two disastrous circumstances, viz. a false shame in himself, and a want of skill in the person to whom he entrusted his cure.

Vomits I have found extremely efficacious, particularly as having an almost instantaneous effect in reducing the swelling.

Where the epidermis grows or continues hard, resolvents I have found of great use, especially mercurial friction joined with camphor; I
have

have also recommended (with gradual success) fumigations, with aromatic herbs, to accomplish a stimulation of the absorbents.

The criterions to judge of the extinction or termination of the gonorrhea, I have observed to be these, the running diminishes, grows whiter, and regressive discovers a more slimy and ropy consistence, until it ultimately refines itself into that fluid which frequently lubricates the passage preparatory to coition. Where I found these marks, I concluded them to be an unequivocal proof of the extermination of the disease; and time always has justified me in drawing the inference, as I never knew any symptoms of the return of the disorder after seeing these certain proofs of its total eradication.

With

With respect to the Treatment of a Gleet.

I shall be brief on this head, since, though sometimes gleans are the consequence of the gonorrhea, they are for the most part, the concomitant companions of a relaxed or debilitated habit or constitution.

In cases where this complaint proceeds from the latter cause, I have always recommended the balsams of turpentine and cantharides—general strengtheners must be used also, such as the cold bath, the sea bath, the bark and steel-astringent, gums, &c.

When gleans proceed from the common cause, or some disorder in the urethra, a bougie of a size something less than common, must be applied, which, should there be a stricture in the urethra, it will impede it—but if it should pass without impediment, the disease may reasonably
be

be concluded to be in the prostrate gland, and which to ascertain, I always, in such cases, next examine—if the gleet, from its symptoms, should appear to be the consequence of a gonorrhea, then I recommend astringents of the decoction of bark, white vitriol, allum, and preparations of lead.

The aqua vitriolica cerulea diluted with a proportional quantity of water, I have used with success as an injection.

Of Chancre.

THIS species of the disease is caught like the gonorrhea—by a connection between the sexes; yet any part of the body is liable to infection, especially if the cuticle is very thin.

It

It is often contracted in men on the frenum, glands, penis, and prepuce—and sometimes on the fore part of the scrotum. It is longer in making its appearance than the gonorrhea. If the frenum, or prepuce are affected, the disorder appears sooner than in the common skin of the penis or the scrotum.

These parts being formed of a cellular membrane, of course afford an easier passage for the extravasated juices. I have had cases under my care, where the chancre has appeared in thirty, sometimes in twenty-four hours,—and in others where it did not appear for two months.

When it begins on the frenum, or near it, that part is frequently entirely destroyed, or a hole ulcerated through it. It begins with itching, and ends in pain;—the surface of the prepuce is frequently excoriated, and afterwards ulcerated. If the venereal poison should be applied where the cuticle is more dense than that of the glands
penis,

penis, or frenum, then it commonly appears in form of a pimple, which grows to a scab.

When the disease partakes of the inflammation peculiar to the habit, it becomes more diffused, and is frequently productive of phymosis, and sometimes paraphymosis, which contribute much to retard the cure.

To the first appearance of chancres, it is indispensibly necessary to pay the strictest attention,—and to their progress on the parts, as they are a kind of comment on, or explanation of the constitution.

If the inflammation spreads rapidly, it shews the constitution naturally inclined to inflammation. In proportion to the violence of the pain, it discovers a propensity to irritation in the constitution—and where they form floughs, they have an unequivocal tendency to mortification.—As these marks point out the constitution, so do they the treatment.

When

When there is waste of substance, either from ulceration or sloughing—and when that loss of substance has been considerable, it is no uncommon thing to have a profuse bleeding, especially if the ulcer is on the glands, as the adhesive inflammation does not take place to unite the veins of the glands, so as to prevent their cavity being exposed—and the blood is allowed to escape from the corpus spongiosum urethra.

The ulcers or sloughs, often go as deep as the corpus cavernosum penis, where the same thing frequently happens.

Of the Phymosis and Paraphymosis.

These complaints originate in the density of the cellular membrane of the prepuce, in consequence of an irritation producing diffusive inflammation,

mation, which happens in consequence of a chancre in that part.

It may not be unnecessary for me to observe here, that the prepuce is the doubling of the skin of the penis when not erect, being then too large for the penis, by which the glands is covered and preserved when not necessary to be used, which, consequently, renders its feelings more acute when the penis becomes erect—it fills the whole of the skin, by which the doubling, forming the prepuce in the non-erect state, is unfolded—and is employed in covering the body of the penis.

A natural contraction of the aperture of the prepuce is not uncommon, and so great in some, as to cause a natural and constant phymosis ; and this may produce a paraphymosis, simply by the prepuce being brought back upon the penis—for this strait part, acting as a ligature round the body of the penis behind the glands, retards the circulation beyond the ligature, producing an
ædematus

œdematus inflammation on the inverted part of the prepuce.

This natural phymosis is so great in children as not even to allow the urine to pass with ease—but becomes progressively larger in their approaching boyhood and puberty. This part of the prepuce, though in most men it is loose enough to prevent no inconvenience in a natural state—yet I have known it contract without any visible cause whatever, and has become so narrow, as to hinder the water from getting out, even after it has got free of the urethra. The cases which I have seen of this latter complexion, have been mostly in old men.

The prepuce frequently becomes in some degree inverted, by the inner skin yielding more than the outer, having a kind of neck where the outer skin naturally terminates. From the distention of the parts in a state of tumefaction, it becomes almost absolutely impossible to bring it
back

back over the penis, so as to invert it, and expose the foreskin on the inside.

Such a condition of the prepuce, unless particularly attended to, is often productive of dangerous consequences, especially when the chancres are behind the glands. On the other hand, if the prepuce is loose, wide, and is accustomed to be kept back in its sound state, or is pulled back to dress the chancres, and is allowed to continue in this situation until tumefaction takes place, then it acquires the name of a *paraphymosis*; or if the prepuce is pulled forcibly back after it is swelled, it is then brought from the state of a *phymosis* to a *paraphymosis*.

The last described situation of the prepuce, is attended with much the worst kind of symptoms, especially where it is changed from a *phymosis* to a *paraphymosis*. In many instances I have known the inflammation arising from this stricture, not only to affect the skin of the penis, in which is included the prepuce, but it attacks
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the whole body of the penis itself, frequently producing adhesions, and even mortifications in the cells of the corpora cavernosa—either of which will inevitably destroy the distensibility of those parts ever after, and give the penis a curve to one side in its involuntary erections.

This sometimes takes place through the whole cellula substance, producing frequently a short and almost inflexible stump.

The following case will serve as illustrative of the above remarks, as well as to inculcate a lesson of caution to the unsuspecting and credulous patient, not to trust to any nostrums for the cure of a complaint that requires the concentrated force of human ability completely to eradicate it; so various and so different are the modes of cure necessary to be adopted, according to the various habits and constitutions of patients infected with this disease, especially as it is well known, the disease takes its variegated complexion from these constitutional circumstances:—

A young man, a pewterer, having contracted the venereal disease, was infected with several small chancres on the prepuce, for the cure of which, he had recourse to a certain famous (more properly speaking, *infamous*) syrup, after continuing it for some time, without perceiving himself the least benefited by this nostrum, he changed it for another of equal celebrity ; but these patent pills seemed to have no *salutary* effect on the complaint, and as the chancres increased in size, the prepuce began to swell, and the inflammation ran so very high, as to produce a most tremendous phymosis, attended with considerable pain, he therefore waited on the gentleman, under whose sanction they are sold, for further advice ; the person who spoke to him there, very *judiciously* prescribed an ointment of equal parts, of bees wax and sweet oil, as the best application to reduce the inflammation, and the pills (handing down a fresh box) were directed to be continued as usual ; he persisted in this course, till the inflammation terminated in a mortification, which destroyed the whole body of the penis, and had
spread

spread itself over a small part of the left testicle ; the pain was so violent as to deprive him of rest for three nights, fortunately for the patient, I was called in at this period, and by proper fomentations and poultices, with powerful doses of opium and bark, which joined with appropriate regimen, effected his cure in little less than a month ; but his manhood was compleatly annihilated, the mortification leaving only a small inflexible stump, of about half an inch in length.

My readers will therefore see, how necessary it is to guard against so melancholy a catastrophe, which at once puts an end to the power of communicating pleasure to, or receiving it from the most deserving objects of our tenderest attachments.

They should bear in mind also, that Venus, the priestess of pleasure, is something like the priests of Baal, without they bring their gifts, she likes no votaries to approach her altar.

A firm, manly resolution, of running no dangerous risks—will be the best preventive of such a disgraceful and humiliating calamity;—but where passion overrules prudence, the earliest possible application should be made to medical intelligence.

CHANCRES IN WOMEN.

From the simplicity of the construction of women's parts, this disorder in them, is consequently less complicated than in men.—When the matter is introduced into the vagina, it there irritates a secreting surface, but when lodged in the inside of the skin of the labia or nymphæ, those parts are only affected with a Gonorrhea, but yet are capable of ulceration.—Ulcerations are much more frequent in women than in men, for this reason, because the surface on which they can form is much larger—we find them on the edge of the labiæ, sometimes on the outside, and even on the perinæum; ulcers formed on the inside of
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the labiæ, are never allowed to dry or scab, but on the outside they are liable to have the matter dry on them, which forms a scab, similar to those on the body of the penis or scrotum.

The venereal matter from such sores, is very apt to run down the perinæum to the anus, as in a gonorrhea, and excoriate the parts, especially about the anus, where the skin is thin and often produce chancres in those parts.

Chancres I have observed in the vagina, and which I take, to have arisen from the spreading of the ulcers on the inside of the labia.

Cure of Chancres.

There are two kinds of treatment for the chancres, the object of one, is to destroy them by means of escharotics, the other to extinguish the venereal irritation, by help of the specific remedy for that poison.

Let it be remembered, that in the cure of the chancres, we have two objects in view, the cure of the chancre, and the prevention of a contamination of the habit,

The first is effected by mercury, either internally through the circulation, or externally in dressings, or in both ways as the nature of the case may make it necessary.

The second, the preservation of the constitution, which is accomplished by shortening the duration of the chancre, and which, consequently, contracts the time of absorption, and also by internal medicines, which in their administration, should always bear a proportion to the continuation of the absorption.

To Destroy a Chancre.

THIS can only be done on the first appearance of it, before the surrounding parts catch the
con-

contamination. It may be done by caustic or incision, but experience justifies me in recommending the lunar caustic, which prevents the hemorrhage from the cells of the glans. I have continued this treatment till the fore began to assume a red appearance, the certain indication of health, and in this state it will heal as rapidly, in most cases, as any other fore produced by a caustic.

In cases (which were very seldom) where the wound did not soon heal, I ordered a mercurial lotion to be constantly applied to the wound, and one grain of mercurius calcinatus to be taken every night, to avert any constitutional injury.

*To Extinguish the Venereal Visitation by
the Specific for that Poison.*

THE cure of a chancre is not synonymous to its destruction, as it consists in eradicating the vene-

real taint, which when accomplished, the healing of the parts becomes a necessary consequence.

*I shall now make some Observations on
the Bubo, with its Cure.*

THE situation of Buboes, arising from the venereal complaint in the penis, are in the absorbent glands of the groins, where a gonorrhea is the cause of a bubo, one groin is equally affected with the other.

I have seen instances, where a chancre on one side of the prepuce, has been productive of a bubo on the other side, which I think, without straining it into a maxim, is a proof, that the absorbents either anastomose or decussate each other.

Buboes

Buboes in Women.

I have known one very particular case that came under my own practice, and on which, I think myself justified in establishing a principle, by which, in all similar cases, a skilful practitioner should be governed. It is briefly this:—

A lady of very great modesty, and under the highest reputation for her virtuous and prudent conduct, applied to me not long since; she was ill, but knew not the cause, though from the irregularity of the gentleman with whom she lived, and who allowed her a very honourable maintenance, she suspected her complaint was the consequence of some extra affair of gallantry of her keeper. She complained of an intolerable itching, and sometimes a great soreness when she walked, but no pain in making water. I examined the parts, but could see nothing that wore the appearance of infection, unless that the one labium was a little fuller than the other, I could
not

not distinguish it, but by pressing the parts with some degree of force, which gave some pain.

There are circumstances where chancres are situated forwards, that is, near the meatus urina-rius, nymphæ, labia, clitoris, or mons veneris, I have found, that the matter absorbed is carried along one of the round ligaments, before they enter the abdomen.

When chancres are situated near the perinæum the matter absorbed, is carried between the labium and the thigh, to the glands in the groin—hence small buboes are formed in the absorbents, not unlike those on the penis in men, and which frequently produce a bubo in the groin.

Of the Cure of Buboes in Men by Resolution.

If the bubo be in the groin, then I have always recommended to rub the mercurial ointment

men on the thigh; this surface will absorb as much mercury as will be sufficient to resolve the bubo, and at the same time preserve the constitution from being contaminated; but in cases where resolution did not take place as soon as I could wish, then I increased the surface of friction by rubbing the ointment on the leg.

Of the Cure in Women by Resolution.

BETWEEN the labia and the thigh, the mercury must be rubbed in about the anus and buttock, as the absorbents of those parts pass this way, and not into the pelvis by the anus. Buboes cannot always be removed by resolution, as they will sometimes come to suppuration. Sometimes the inflammation is great, though the suppuration is but small.

When a bubo is very large, I have used a caustic, but when it is small, a lancet will answer every bit as well—nay, indeed, I give it a preference; where I have done the business by caustic,

I gave the preference to the lapis septicus, which I take to be the best.—I have ordered the mercurial course to be continued until the bubo was healed.

But where any obstinacy or disinclination to heal appeared, I always recommended (when the venereal action appeared to be destroyed) a milk diet, country air, and a decoction of sarsaparilla with mezereon, and in other cases, I have recommended the warm sea bath, which I have always found to have considerable effect.

Warts.

Warts are no more than excrescences from the cutis or tumorous forming on it. These excrescences sometimes, have not a consequence of the venereal poison, though possessed of its specific disposition, which makes mercury necessary in removal of them, which is most commonly used successfully, at least five instances out of seven I have found it so.

The

The knife and escharotics are not always necessary, a pair of scissars when they shoot up high, and are small at the neck, is the most expeditious mode of removing them; but where I have found patients trembling at the idea of a knife or scissars, or indeed at any cutting instrument, as is sometimes the case; I have used a mild though efficacious substitute, which is a silk thread, tied round their neck.—But whatever way or method may be adopted for this removal, I consider it as indispensibly necessary to touch the base with a caustic.—Any caustic, such as metallic salts, lapis septicus, the lapis calaminaris, and favin leaves mixed, is one of the best stimulants I am acquainted with; as united, they seldom or never fail of effecting a complete eradication. I prefer it to the knife, scissars, ligature, or any other application, as I have had but one instance of its proving unsuccessful, and in this the others were equally so.

About seven years ago, I received a letter from a young Nobleman in the neighbourhood of Berkeley-square,

ley-square, the original of which, I have now by me, exactly word for word as follows; together with its postscript:—

MR. GODFREY,

SIR;

Sometime since, I had an imprudent connection, by which I contracted venereal chancres, on the glans penis, accompanied with a phymosis, I put myself under the care of an apothecary, who attended me for some time, but the cure not appearing to be any thing advanced, he performed the operation for the phymosis, by slitting the prepuce nearly its whole length; when he discovered a great number of warts upon the glans, and round the nut; mercurial applications in various forms were applied, but the warts increased in size, as well as number; two of three of them were therefore cut off with a pair of scissars, and their base touched with caustic, in the night they bled profusely, and I tied my handkerchief round them, permitting it to remain in that state till I went the next day to get them dressed,

in

in about ten days or a fortnight, little warts began to make their appearance over the whole divided prepuce, and those that had been removed grew again; at this time I was obliged to quit London, to go to Paris, on some urgent business; about a fortnight after I arrived there, I found two buboes, forming one in each groin, a French Physician and Surgeon was consulted, who unitedly recommended a salivation, which I underwent in three months, the buboes and chancres were compleatly healed, but the warts still remained, notwithstanding every means used for their eradication—such as caustic, scissars, ligatures, powder of savin, &c. I have now been returned about eighteen months and at present under the care of the surgeon to our family, from whom I have been taking for the last six months an alternative pill every night, with a quart bottle of strong decoction of sarsaparilla every day, but without finding myself any better; the warts are now grown so large and painful, that I am under the necessity of keeping my penis constantly suspended, and if any of the former applications are used, they put me in such
torture

torture, that existence has become almost insupportable, even a little calomel and spermaceti ointment occasions great pain.—It is now full four years I have been troubled with these warts; and so many Gentlemen of professional skill, have failed in my cure, that I almost despair of ever getting relieved from them, if you think you can be of any service to me, will thank you to favor me with an answer, and I will wait on you at any time you may please to appoint.

I am Sir, yours, &c. &c.

C. W.

P. S. The reason I have taken this method of applying to you in preference to the medical Gentleman who attends my family, is to prevent the possibility of a circumstance like this transpiring, as it not only might be extremely injurious to my interest, but also to the peace and happiness of some branches of my family—which I still more appreciate.

On the perusal of the above case, it appeared clearly to me, that the continuance of the warts
did

did not arise from any venereal disposition, but that the parts had acquired a peculiar diseased mode of action, which gave rise to those warts, and that mercury had no power to destroy this action.—His cure justified my opinion.—Having, when a boy, been greatly plagued myself with warts on my hands, I recollected getting rid of them, by the following advice of a nurse, she directed me to take a piece of raw beef to rub the warts with, then press the juice of the beef on them, tying at night a fresh piece of beef on the hands. and this was to be repeated every night, till they disappeared, which was in less time than two months. An idea suggested itself to me, that the same remedy might be successful in this case.—I therefore ordered the Gentleman to apply the beef as before directed, prescribing, at the same time, the following mixture, as the patients strength was greatly reduced:—

R. Syr. Cort: Aurant. unc: dimid: Tinct. Cort Peruv. drachm: sex. Decoct. Cort. Peruv. unc. septem. m. f. Mixture cujus capiat coch. iv. sextâ quâque horâ :

when, to the Gentleman's great satisfaction and astonishment, he was compleatly relieved from every one of the warts, in less than ten weeks.

The Preventive Experiments.

OBSERVING in the course of my practice, a variety of local chancres, it led me to endeavour to find out a radical cure for them, without having recourse to the application of the lunar caustic, as in some very irritable habits, it produced so much inflammation, as to bring on a phymosis.

After trying a variety of preparations for obtaining this desirable end ; I at last hit on one that seemed to answer my most sanguine expectation ; and I uniformly made use of it for several years, in cases where there appeared any tendency to inflammation, and always in these cases, with the happiest effect.—Seeing it so effectually destroy the venereal virus, by mixing with the poison, and thereby curing the patient.

When

When the disease was only local—it induced me to make the following experiments. I took venereal matter from a chancre; and mixed with it a portion of this preventive medicine, and taking some on the point of a lancet, innoculated myself; by inserting it between the skin of the arm, in the same manner as we innoculate children for the small pox; in order to see if it would produce a venereal chancre on the arm, I suffered it to remain there three days, examining it afterwards three or four times a day, to see if there appeared any signs of ulceration; none appearing, I next examined the glands in the axilla, thinking it might be absorbed and deposited in some of those glands; but after a minute examination, I could not perceive that any of them were in the least diseased, as they were not at all painful to touch, nor were they in the smallest degree swelled, from that time to this, which is about ten months, feeling no inconvenience in these parts, and the orifice perfectly healed without any pain.

I was fully convinced, that the disease had not taken place,—and that the medicine possessed a specific power of destroying the venereal action, when united before its applicotion to the human system, as well as in local chancres; but this did not fully demonstrate to me, that it had the power of an infallible preventive; it only proved, that it possessed the power of destroying the venereal virus, when mixed, and that no venereal complaint could take place from venereal matter, previously united with this medicine.

I therefore took the opportunity (immediately after passing my water, in order that the experiment might not be doubtful by the urine washing the matter away, before it was likely to take effect) to introduce venereal matter, on the point of a small bougie, into my urethra, permitting it to remain till the bougie began to produce some trifling uneasiness, when I withdrew it: between the second and third day, I began to feel a disagreeable titulation and uneasiness towards the end of the urethra, attended with a slight degree of
 pain

pain in passing my water—these symptoms convinced me the complaint was about to take place.

In consequence of which, I immediately had recourse to the *preventive medicine*, and applied it as an injection, throwing it up the urethra, with an elastic India rubber syringe, six or seven times that day, and four or five for the two succeeding days, when all the symptoms in the course of that time vanished, and I had not the least inconvenience arise, and the complaint by this means was compleatly prevented.

The success of this last experiment, fully proved to me, its preventive powers; since which time, I have constantly recommended it to the use of all my patients, and I have not known a single instance where it failed of preventing this complaint, and all the alarming consequences, which too frequently originate from this direful disease.

I shall now lay before my readers, the necessary particulars respecting the use and application of a sovereign preventive.—When I delivered my public lectures on this arduous subject, I observed, that common women, who had only been affected two or three days, frequently gave this complaint to a variety of men who had connections with them, without any appearance of the disease upon themselves; this is accounted for, by the venereal virus, lying in the vagina, without producing ill effects to the woman.

To every Gentleman, who may be so imprudent as to form a connection of this sort, I would recommend, to desire the woman to make use of the preventive medicine, and wash the parts well, previous to the act of coition; this will not only render *himself* more secure, but it will prevent *her* communicating the complaint to others, who may come after him there, by lessening the propagation of this loathsome disease.

With

With respect to the manner, Gentlemen are to adopt in the use of this preventive, I would recommend indiscriminately to all Gentlemen, immediately after having any connection that justified suspicion—to wash the whole body of the penis, four or five times a day, to draw the prepuce over the glands, and apply it in like manner, taking particular care, to wash under and about the frenum, a membranous ligament, under the penis, which ties the prepuce to the glands, as it is probable, the venereal virus may be concealed there, and from the skin being thinner, is more susceptible of venereal irritation.

I would likewise recommend Gentlemen to throw a syringe full up the urethra, four or five times, for three days; and in that time, I am perfectly convinced, the disease will be infallibly prevented.

For the conveniency of those, who may wish to make use of this preventive, I have prepared it in the form of a powder, contained in a small

box, which may be carried in the pocket, without the smallest inconvenience.—As much as you can take up on a sixpence, will in general be sufficient for a cup full of water, mixing them well together, by stirring them with the finger, and to be used as I have just directed.

Conclusion

CONCLUSION.

IN writing this short Treatise, I had three objects of contending magnitude in view, viz.

First, The necessity of preventing the contraction of this disease.

Secondly, The folly, as well as the certain danger of trusting to nostrums as an efficacious opposer to the protean assumptions of this inveterate disease ;—and

Thirdly, To point out the inevitable fatality, in which, trusting to the preposterous absurdity of self-cure eventually terminates.

On

On the first point, I believe there can be but one opinion, in repelling its attack, conquering it in the beginning, or where this cannot be effected, to render it less virulent in its progress, by carefully watching its insidious progressive contamination.

On the second, I shall provoke the enmity of the whole host of Quacks (a formidable body indeed—*particularly to their devoted patients*). But this anticipated abuse I shall place to the credit of my professional account, as this inundation of calumny will be more than amply compensated, by the candor and liberality of the intelligent practitioner, whose countenance and protection I fondly anticipate, especially as I have by labour and industry endeavoured to merit it, by thus contributing my mite to the treasury of medical knowledge, inciting a just, generous, and general reprobation of interested rash innovators on the science.

On

On the third point, I have the founder of the doctrine, and the advocates of *self-cure* to encounter with.—The former, will, no doubt, defend his doctrine as it promotes his interest;—the latter will be but few, for their number will be confined to those only *who have not yet followed his advice*, for I am confident, that those who have been fascinated by the temporary delusion, and have eagerly volunteered themselves under the standard of those revolutionary principles in physic, and the *new order of things* in medicine, attempted to be established by Dr. Buchan, will be happy to return speedily to the standard of common sense and certain cure, both of which they evidently abandoned in making this desperate attack of *self-cure*, and happy will they be, if, after making this unsuccessful attack, they find strength enough to make an orderly and safe retreat to medical assistance, in order to counteract the dangerous consequences which are the inevitable companions of the extraneous absurdity of *self cure*!

Some

Some years back, there were three parties in the House of Commons in this country, viz.

The MINISTRY,

The OPPOSITION,

and a certain eccentric Caledonian Lord, who was in as direct opposition to both the other two, as they were to each other, or himself was to reason and common sense—he stood singly, in his own person—his own party.—Not one Member of either the majority or minority ever seconded a motion that he brought forward; in this respect he was perfectly revenged on them, for he never, in the short course of his parliamentary life, seconded a motion, or even voted for it, that came from either the Minister or the Opposition!

This circumstance, I think, is exactly similar to the present condition of Dr. Buchan, with regard to his doctrine of the *new order of things* in physic.

The regular Physicians are one party.

The

The Empyrics are another—and the great Dr. Buchan himself (singly) the third party.

The former he wishes to bring into disrepute from their inutility and monopoly of science, (in other words for being intelligent and learned) the latter he would have exterminated for their ignorance—that on the ruins of both, he might build a Temple, consecrated to his own fame—incribed with five appropriate emblematic figures of

1. *Health*—rising like another resplendent phoenix from the ashes of disease.

2. *The New Order of Things*—by the figure of a half starved regular bred Physician.

3. A *Quack*, dead of hunger.

4. *An Aerial Figure*, representing the Caledonian Minerva—vulgarly called the Genius of *second sight*—inspiring Dr. Buchan, with the grand ideas

ideas of *self cure*, and the *new order of things*, alternately, inviting, instructing, entreating, enjoining, and finally commanding him to write a Treatise, decrying Physic and Physicians, and thereby to rescue the science from an unchartered monopoly—making every man his own Physician, *by only once reading his works!*

5 *A Collofian Figure*, of Esculapius, representing the great Doctor himself—pointing to those figures, with a label—saying,—“ *these are the astonishing works of my—medical skill—and I think if the family medicine, and his treatise on the venereal disease were depicted, and their titles done in large golden letters (which the well deserve, from the quantity of that metal they brought in to their author) it would be an additional laurel in the esculapian crown, which will entwine the venerable head of the author.*

An Irish Gentleman, who is by while I write this piece of pleasantry, says—“ *it would not be amiss my dear, if you were to find some apropos motto*
for

for your aerial temple, in allusion to the hundreds that have been KILLED by CURING THEMSELVES" as recommended and prescribed by the Doctor in his treatise.

However, I confess, that were I actuated by interested motives in this small treatise, I should have more reason to be pleased than displeased at the Doctor's writing,—as an adherence to his principles of *self cure*, has materially extended my business, and this increase of my business, consists of the half sacrificed victims to the modern Moloch *self cure*, with this difference only in the comparison, that the ancient idol, was content with the sacrifice of infants, to appease his diabolical fury; whereas, the modern mushroom idol of *self cure*, demands the promiscuous indiscriminate sacrifice of men, women, and children!

I have directed the whole concentrated force of my theoretical knowledge, illustrated by a most extensive practice, of near fifteen years, and justified by every minutiae of experience, to
the

the *preventive remedy*.—I have made all the preventive experiments on myself, nor did the personal danger which must inevitably attend some of them, deter me from practising others, still more dangerous—in order that I might come at a knowledge in my profession, equal to the importance of restoring health, and prolonging human life: my principles are, therefore, neither hypothetical nor speculative—they are built on the salutary safe basis of self experience, by which I am not only warranted to promise, but enabled to ensure their efficacy; having therefore done my duty as a Physician, it will not be considered as unreasonable in me, to expect the reciprocal duty of the patient, for, in vain the doctor prescribes, unless the patient follows his prescriptions; his scrupulous compliance with his doctor's directions, embraces two great objects of (almost) equal importance to both—It comprehends his own health, and establishes the character of his Physician, and which every medical man ought to be as solicitous to establish, as a patient should be careful to preserve his health—

but

but in the neglect on the part of the patient, to perform this duty, he loses his health, and perhaps his life, and the doctor in some degree, his professional reputation.

I hope this plain manner of reasoning will have its due weight, with every description of my patients, who shall use my *preventive remedy*; and the more to induce them to do this act of justice to themselves than me, I hereby advertise the inestimable reward of health, for their obedience on one hand; and at the same time denounce the punishment of the protracted misery of disease, for their disobedience, on the other.

Dr. Buchan, after depreciating the whole body of physicians, observes by way of amelioration of the harshness of his promiscuous sentence of condemnation,—"That his Treatise on the Venereal Disease, is not intended to supersede the physician, but to supply his place where he is not, so that patients may cure themselves with
K ease

ease and safety, by conforming to the rules laid down in his work."

The Doctor here seems to have lost sight of his accustomed acuteness, in making so weak and exceptionable an apology, for surely, if a man can cure himself by reading the Doctor's Treatise where there is no physician, he can, by the same purity of reasoning, and the same remedy, cure himself where there is one.

Dr. Buchan is more satirical on the faculty than he is aware of.—Le Sage himself, in the plenitude of his pointed ridicule against that body, has not said or written any thing nearly equal in point of sarcasm, to Dr. Buchan's Treatise of Self-Cure, or his Domestic Medicine, for if such a grand desideratum can be accomplished by every man who is able to read and buy the Doctor's writings, the physicians are not only impostors, but defrauders, who get money under *false pretences*, by their alleging most audaciously, that it requires some knowledge, learning, skill, and experience

experience to be a physician, thereby to exercise the healing art. Whereas Dr. Buchan clearly proves the contrary, that it requires nothing but barely to read *his Works*.—What the Doctor says on this head is true or it is not true.—If true, they are a set of impostors, and as such deserve to be punished: if it is not true, what appellation does the Doctor merit?

It is most sincerely to be wished, that the evils likely to be disseminated by this destructive doctrine of *self cure*, were confined to the condition of celibacy alone—but alas! it is not so.—The innocent chaste wife, meets the embraces of her imprudent husband, and as the reward of her pure conjugal caresses, receives in return the contamination of disease; for the misguided husband, thinks that he can step aside from the line of propriety without detection, as he can cure himself: thus secrecy and œconomy, so necessary to be united in the gallantry of married men, are ensured to the gallant, and because Dr. Buchan has misled the husband, the husband thinks he can

as easily impose on the wife—but time, the unfold-
 er of all dark designs, however secretly pro-
 tected, will soon (though perhaps too late for re-
 dress) convince the *unhappy Quacker of himself*, that
 so far from removing, he has confirmed the dis-
 ease, and made that irradicable, which, with me-
 dical skill, a little before might admit of a per-
 fect cure.--The wife gives it to her tender off-
 spring, by which misery is entailed on their
 posterity; and as a reward for his credulity, the
 husband gets rid of his fear of detection, his
 health, and sometimes his life--the wife of her's,
 and their child, into the hard bargain, at the very
 moderate expence of buying the Doctor's fasci-
 nating system of *self cure*!!

Vice in this, as in most cases, brings its own
 punishment; which punishment, in this instance,
 will be multiplied in a quintuple ratio, to what it
 was anterior to the promulgation of that de-
 structive doctrine of *self cure*, unless I have the
 good

good fortune, to write it into that detestation and obscurity, to which it ought to be eternally consigned.

Dr. Buchan attacked my countrymen on two vulnerable points, well known to every ingenious speculator,—viz. credulity and curiosity—These two foibles, peculiar to John Bull, procured the rapid succession of editions of his *Family Medicine*—as John is always ready to believe every plausible story, however improbable, and is equally eager to gratify his love of novelty, in purchasing any thing, that promises the gratification of it.

The Doctor knew this national characteristic well, and consequently, thought he had a right, at the expence of truth to himself, and health to the natives, to avail himself of it—by obtruding this dangerous novelty on the public.

The rapidity of the sale of a book, considered under these circumstances, is no criterion to judge

of its utility—as on that principle, the *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*, or *Harris's List of Covent Garden Beauties*, would have a decided claim to rank and consideration; and I insist on it, the latter publications were never more inimical to morality, than the *Doctor's Domestic Medicine*, and his *Treatise on Venereal Complaints*, are to health.

I shall conclude these observations, with shewing to the unprejudiced and impartial public, two or three of the most prominent conspicuous evils, which has, and which ever must be the consequences attendant on consulting *Dr. Buchan's Treatise on Domestic Medicine*.

First, Maternal affection is one of the strongest, and at the same time one of the most amiable passions of the female breast; but sometimes we see the sweetest wine degenerate into the sowerest vinegar. It is frequently so with this honourable and praise-worthy attachment of a mother to her beloved infant, and that affection, which the
Almighty

Almighty has planted in the breast, as the protection of helpless infancy, becomes from an unjustifiable anxiety, the bane of that health it is injudiciously exerted to preserve.

A lady applied to me when I was in general practice, to visit her only child, about whose health and life three families, besides her own, were almost equally and anxiously interested. The child appeared pale—with no symptoms of any complaint, but weakness about him;—on enquiry, I understood the mother fancied she had discovered something in the child's stools that indicated illness;—Dr. Buchan's Domestic Medicine was therefore consulted, from which the child had been quacked. I told her, that the infant state was subject to a variety of fluctuations, difficult to be accounted for, and that, unless in a few certain cases, it were much better to let nature take its course, (aided by good nursing and proper diet) for in all these cases of incertitude peculiar to the infant state, nature was the best physician.—She heard me,

but she did not follow my advice—the child was purged—and purged and repurged! His stools were analyzed with the same anxiety that a Pagan priest would watch the entrails of the sacrifice, to prognosticate from thence auspicious or inauspicious omens. The child grew weaker and weaker as might naturally be expected. I was sent for again in great haste—when I came, the husband took me aside and informed me, that ever since I was last there, the nurse and mother had been perpetually giving it some nostrum prescribed in Buchan's Domestic Medicine. The lady pressed me to give my opinion, what was the child's disease, I told her—his medicines—with this she did not seem pleased, and begged I would prescribe something for it. I requested her husband would come, and that I would satisfy her desire—he came, and I assured her, before I did write, that if she would mind, and comply with such directions as I should order, it would infallibly restore the child to strength and health. She said she would most scrupulously. I immediately

ately took the pen and wrote the following prescription, viz.

Shut up Dr. Buchan's Treatise on Family Medicine;

Give the Child no more Medicine;

Look no more into the Child's stools,---

and I'll answer that this remedy will prove a specific in all similar cases.

Longevity is a predominant wish of human nature, to arrive at which period, every art that valetudinarianism can suggest is essayed. Dr. Buchan has given plenty of work in his Family Medicine to this description of hypocondriac patients. They read his works, and beginning regularly with the catalogue of human diseases, alternately compare his indicative symptoms with their own, and are afflicted regularly by a kind of sympathy with every disorder he mentions. Such people put me in mind of the camelion, who having no colour of his own, assumes by reflection, every colour he is opposed to. I have a lady of this description at this moment, a
patient

patient of mine, who I shall have more trouble I fear, to persuade that she is perfectly well in her health, than to cure seven that are actually diseased. So much superior to medical skill is the unpitied disorder of absurdity ! For this patient I am also indebted to Dr. Buchan's Treatise on the Venereal Disease, for only by his book *was she infected*.

There is almost a commensurate reciprocal affection between the body and the mind, and a disease or the foolish conceit of a disease, renders life very miserable, what worse can real sickness do ? Hence it is, that Valetudinarians have found out the art of *self-tormenting*, which hypocondriac absurdity is fed in weak minds, by the anticipated symptoms of disease described in the visionary theory of *self-cure*, which, though it can never cure a real disorder, may bring on a dozen imaginary ones, and which no human skill can remove, but by leaving off taking that food which nourishes them,—the reading such Treatises as the Domestic Medicine.

Third,

Third, The matter is infinitely more serious, with respect to treating the venereal disease; for I maintain it, that taking no remedy whatever, is more beneficial to the patient, than the dangerous one of self quackery.—If this complaint is left for months, it may be removed by skilful medical aid, but if it is unskilfully tempered with, it confirms it in the system, and like brandy in a high fever, brings it to the crisis of aggravated inveteracy.

I appeal to every medical man in the world, whether this is not a fact.—I also appeal to the suffering patients, who have survived self quackery, for the truth of this assertion.—The independance and respectability of several patients, I have got in consequence of this innovation on medical practice, sufficiently prove, that I am not actuated by any personal motives whatever, in writing against Dr. Buchan's works.

He who writes for his own interest, writes well ;
 he who writes for the interest of the public,
 writes

writes better.—To that impartial tribunal, I appeal for their determination, who has best acquitted himself of this latter important duty, Dr. Buchan or I.—I wait their decree with respect—
 “ It is not in the power of mortals to command
 “ success, but we can do more, we can endeavour
 “ to deserve it !”

I think it a duty I owe the intelligent and respectable profession, to which I have the honor to belong, to say a few words, respecting the practical part, treated of in this work—It is laconic, but it is well chosen, as every case, and every stage of the disorder I have treated on, is recommended, not from theory, but my own immediate practice.

I have read with the greatest attention, the works of the most celebrated authors of former, later, and present times, on the subject, and in none did I find, so much scientific skill displayed, as in the works of the late lamented, and justly celebrated Dr. Hunter--Him, I made my model,
 because

because I found his principles justified in almost every instance of my own practice--and conformable to the opinion of that luminary of medical knowledge, I have delivered my own opinion, with no variation from its spirit; and but little from its letter--which so far, from attempting to conceal, I am proud to acknowledge, especially, as I have already mentioned his superior judgment, warrants me in the prosecution of a plan of practice, the success of which, always has been commensurate to the precaution by which it was followed.

But to these gentlemen, and the public, I pledge myself very soon to present a supplementary volume on nothing but practice, formed from cases of my own experience. Another reason co-operated to my treating the practical parts in detail, viz.--I thought it was not so essentially, or at least so immediately necessary to the good of society, to give an elaborate treatise, on a subject, that had been treated on before, as to stop the rapid progress of a new doctrine, calculated

lated to promote, not to prevent the evil it proposed to remove; a slow fire may be stopped by deliberate means, but to extinguish a rapid fierce flame, every man should bring his bucket of water to extinguish it, lest it should end in a general conflagration.

FINIS.





